

THE 'ALALĀ: RECENT FINDINGS AND MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS*

Stanley A. Temple
Department of Wildlife Ecology
University of Wisconsin at Madison
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Research in progress and during 1979 has yielded information which provides the basis for management aimed at increasing the reproductive success of the 'Alalā (Corvus tropicus). We have gathered much information on the general life history and biology of the Alalā, including detailed studies of the nesting biology. Our findings identify several factors responsible for the poor reproductive success documented by this and other studies. These include: abnormally high infertility of eggs, unexplained disappearance of eggs, loss of nestlings soon after hatching, and loss of nestlings to disease and predators. Additionally, we discovered that the Hawaiian Crow will renest and produce replacement clutches if their first clutches are either lost or fail to hatch. Further, these replacement clutches can successfully produce young.

These findings lead us to recommend the now common management technique of double clutching to boost the reproductive output of wild 'Alalā.

Work currently in progress on the Common Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) should give further support to the implementation of this technique and provide desired logistical experience and information.